



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Hot Springs National Park News Release

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National Park Service Extends Request for Proposal Period for Remaining Three Vacant Historic Bathhouses

The National Park Service (NPS) is extending the request for proposal period to lease the vacant bathhouses in Hot Springs National Park for an additional three months until July 17, 2006.

A second "Request for Proposals" (RFP) for three vacant historic bathhouses available for lease on Bathhouse Row was issued January 5, 2006, for only three months, but there has been little response to the announcement on FedBizOpps, the federal government E- Commerce website.

In consultation with the Midwest Regional Office concessions manager, the NPS decided to extend the new RFP deadline to July 17, 2006 at 4:30 p.m., according to Josie Fernandez, Hot Springs National Park Superintendent.

"In retrospect, three months may not have been enough time to cast a wider net to attract prospective lessees," said Fernandez. "We had nine proposals in 2005 when we issued the RFP for six months, so we are extending this RFP period in hopes that we will get the same response."

The historic buildings available for lease are the Superior, Hale, and Ozark Bathhouses. The original deadline was April 15, 2006.

The NPS is negotiating long- term leases for the historic Quapaw and Maurice Bathhouses with a local group of partners. Fernandez said the negotiations are progressing smoothly and on schedule. The Park Service is also working with the U.S. Forest Service to adapt the Lamar Bathhouse and reopen it as a visitor center and office facilities for their headquarters operations in Arkansas.

In the meanwhile, progress continues with the rehabilitation work on Bathhouse Row. Au Autham Ki, Inc. of Chandler, Arizona, the contractor working in the Lamar and Hale Bathhouses, is expected to complete its project in the fall. The final phase of the Ozark Bathhouse rehab is scheduled for completion in the summer. Funding for the Quapaw, Maurice and Superior Bathhouses was appropriated in Fiscal Year 2006 and it will be obligated by September 30.

The NPS has undertaken a multi- year, multi- million dollar project to stabilize and preserve the vacant bathhouses on Bathhouse Row, a National Historic District. Hot Springs National Park will lease the buildings to re- open them for public use. For more information about the RFP or the NPS Historic Leasing Program, please call the Office of the Superintendent at 623- 2824 or visit www.fedbizopps.gov.

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